



MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Superintendents
Indiana School Principals

FROM: Gaylon J. Nettles, State Attendance Officer

DATE: April 25, 2008

SUBJECT: Student Participation as Helpers in Elections

Following is the statutory guidance concerning the release of students to participate as helpers to electoral candidates on election day. Students requesting release must be excused if the parameters are met in paragraph (b). The day away from school is reported as a day of attendance in reports to the state. This waiver of the compulsory school attendance law is operative only on the day of the election, both primary and general.

IC 20-33-2-15.

(a) The governing body of a school corporation and the chief administrative official of a nonpublic secondary school system shall authorize the absence and excuse of each secondary school student who serves:

(1) on the precinct election board; or

(2) as a helper to a political candidate or to a political party on the date of each general, city or town, special, and primary election at which the student works.

(b) Before the date of the election, the student must submit a document signed by one (1) of the student's parents giving permission to participate in the election as provided in this section, and the student must verify to school authorities the performance of services by submitting a document signed by the candidate, political party chairman, campaign manager, or precinct officer generally describing the duties of the student on the date of the election. A student excused from school attendance under this section may not be recorded as being absent on any date for which the excuse is operative and may not be penalized by the school in any manner.

Additional questions related to this issue should be directed to gnettlles@doe.in.gov.